

ANALYSIS OF FEMINISM THOUGHT REFLECTED IN MAYA ANGELOU'S SELECTED POETRIES



A Thesis

**Submitted In Partial Fulfillment Of The Requirements For The Degree Of Sarjana
Humaniora In English And Literature Departement of Adab And Humanities
Faculty Of Alauddin State Islamic University Of Makassar**

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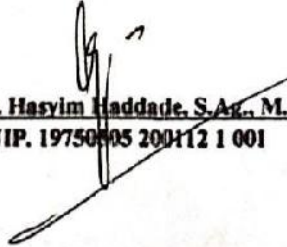

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PERNYATAAN KEASLIAN	i
PERSETUJUAN PEMBIMBING	ii
PENGESAHAN SKRIPSI.....	iii
APPROVAL SHEET	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	vii
ABSTRACT	viii
TABLE OF CONTENT.....	vi-vii
CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION	1-7
A. Backgaround	1
B. Research Question.....	5
C. Objective Of The Research.....	6
D. Significances of the Research	6
E. Scope Of The Research	6
CHAPTER II : LITERATURE REVIEW.....	8-27
A. Previous Findings	8
1. Poetries By Maya Angelou	10
a. Still I Rise.....	10
b. Phenomenal Women	12
c. Equality	15
B. Theoretical Framework	17
1. Feminist Literary Racism	17
a. Feminism In General	17
b. Feminist Racism.....	18
2. Some Fundamental Elements of Poetries	22
a. Simile	23
b. Metaphor	23
c. Understatement	24
d. Hyperbole Or Overstatement	24

3. Maya Angelou As Feminist Poetries	24
CHAPTER III : METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH	28-31
A. Research Method.....	28
B. The Object of Research	28
C. Instrument of Research	29
D. Data Analysis Technique	29
CHAPTER IV : FINDING AND DISSCUSSION.....	32-47
A. Findings.....	32
B. Discussion	46
CHAPTER V : CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION4.....	48-50
A. Conclusion.....	48
B. Suggestion	49
REFERENCES.....	51-53



ABSTRACT

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This study discusses in The Analysis of Feminism Thought reflected in Maya Angelou's Selected Poetries which aims to find out how feminism affects Maya Angelou's poetry. This research is based on the Feminism theory. The research method used is a qualitative method. Researchers use note-taking as an instrument to reveal valid data. The finding is that black feminism is reflected in three poems by Maya Angelou. In the poem *"Still I Rise"*, there is a thought of black feminism that depicts a brave African-American woman who wants to rise above the discrimination of the majority of white Americans. They want to show extraordinary, strong, and cannot be underestimated. In the poem *"Phenomenal women"* also contains thoughts of black feminism that send a message about African-American women who are confident and trying to break the standards of beauty and society. In the poem *"Equality,"* there is a message about women who are strong and courageous in fighting for freedom for themselves and their groups. They want to be equal and receive their rights as human beings and must be free from the shackles of discrimination they have experienced for centuries.

Keywords: *Feminism, Maya Angelou, Poetries, Literature*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consisted of Background, Formulated Statements, Objective of Research, Significance of Research, and Scope of Research.

A. Background

There is an art in this life, and the art removed to be creation and it is known as a literary. Literature represent a language of people, culture and tradition, but literature is more important than just historical of cultural artifact. Literature introduces us to new world of experience. We learn about books and literature, we enjoy the comedy and tragedy stories and we may even grow through our literary journey with books. Furthermore, literature represents “life” and “life” is in large measure of social reality. Even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also become objects of literary imitation. It means the literature is a mirror of life because it is related with social reality.

In literature there are some literary works that include: novel, short story, drama and poetry. Poetry is one creative from in literature. Laurence Perrine says that poetry is a universal language and most as ancient. In all ages and countries, poetry written are excitedly read or listened by all people. Some people read it just to console themselves, fill their spare time and avoid their stressful mind. For a poet, poetry is a media to communicate and express her feelings, based on her

situation and imagination. Poetry has something to do with the poetry historical background. Styles, philosophies, and the social cultural background have influenced the poetry works. A poetry historical background has periodically different esthetical features.

African-American black feminists want to show that within them there is a power to initiate a change although they are perceived by issues of race, gender and differences in social status. Various pressures in society make them women African-American are aware of their own condition. They began to voice their thoughts against the people who oppressed them. This is reflected in Maya Angelou's selected poetry, "*Still I Rise, Phenomenal Women, and Equality*".

The history feminism stems from western feminism because the initial thought about the feminist movement was a reaction to discrimination against women in the western world. Hooks in his book feminism is for everybody: Politics (2000) provides a simple definition of feminism. According to hooks, feminism is a movement to end sexism, sexual exploitation and oppression. According to Krolokke and Sorensen (2005:24), the history of feminism is divided into three waves. Each wave has different aspects of the same feminist issues.

In Islam, towards equality begins with the importance of equalizing the gender of women and men through several words in the Qur'an that have mentioned the diversity of doctrines, skin colour, religious rac, ethnicity, culture,

nation and between groups. Glorious before Allah is the most pious. This is stated in the QS. Al-Hujurat verse 13:

أَمْ أَلَمَ ۚ أَنْ أَوْحَىٰ إِلَىٰ رَسُولِهِ قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنِّي خَشِيتُ اللَّهَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْفُلُكُم مِّنْ نَّفْسٍ وَنَسَبٍ وَنَسَبٍ ۚ وَتُنَاسَرُونَ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ ذَكِيٌّ ۚ

أَمْ أَلَمَ ۚ أَنْ أَوْحَىٰ إِلَىٰ رَسُولِهِ قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنِّي خَشِيتُ اللَّهَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْفُلُكُم مِّنْ نَّفْسٍ وَنَسَبٍ وَنَسَبٍ ۚ وَتُنَاسَرُونَ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ ذَكِيٌّ ۚ

Translation:

“O people, verily We created you from a man and a woman and made you nations and tribes so that you could know each other. Surely the most noble among you in the sight of Allah is the most devout among you. Allah is All-Knowing, All-Knowing.”

Gender is a cultural interpretation of gender differences however gender is related to gender differences. However, it is not always related to physiological differences, as so far many have been found in society. Gender is a set of attitudes, roles, responsibilities, functions, rights, and behaviours inherent in men and women as a result of the cultural from or environment where humans grow and grow, gender is a concept that refers to the roles and responsibilities of men and women as social constructions that can be changed according to changing times. Talking about gender, we are talking about humans who consist of men and women, while in a society of two genders, it turns out that these women experience injustice a lot. Discrimination and violence are caused by cultural factors, structure, and interpretation of religious teachings.

The same goes for various forms of injustice against women. Because if we

examine it more deeply, there is actually not a single text, either the Qu'ran or the Hadist, that provides an opportunity to treat women arbitrarily. Relations



between humans in Islam are based on the principles of equality, brotherhood and benefit. This is in accordance with the word of Allah SWT in QS. An-Nisa Verse 124 mentions (Al-Qur'an)



Translation:

“Whoever does good deeds, both male and female, while he is a believer, then they will go to heaven and they will not be persecuted at all “(Q.S an-Nisa”[4]:124).

The verse explains that person's rank and position are not determined by gender, but are determined by their deeds and piety. Islam views all human beings on the same level, regardless of men and women. Even if there is a difference it is determined by the quality of his piety. Social boundaries such as ethnicity, language, men and women, cannot be used as a measure to determine someone to be better than others. Generally, morality can be defined as a series of social structures in society that are binding and regulate the processes of interaction with one another. As state to Eckert in Resa and Nasrum (2018: 191),

morality is an entity that must be owned by everyone, so that in acting not as they wish and always considering the impact of the actions taken against him and the community (Shephred, 2018: 14).



Maya Angelou is one of woman writers who use feminism approach in her work. In this thesis, the writer wants to analyse three poetry of Angelou's which tells the story of a black woman whose life around whites. The three poetries which the writer wants to analyse are Still I rise (1978), Equality (2001), and Phenomenal woman (1978). The reason for the writer to choose these Maya Angelou's works is because these poetry are about woman. The writer as a woman is interested in knowing who a poet imagines a woman through a poetry. The better way to study the image of woman in literary is by making a feminist approach. So in this thesis, the writer wants to analyse them from a woman viewpoint and focus this research on feminist literary criticism.

In three of Angelou's poetry that the writer want to analyzed. Angelou spoke about a woman criticizing what the whites think about her, a woman's power, bravery, behaviour, and the way a woman sees herself. Beside that the writer also wants to know what the figurative language and imagery related to woman appear in Angelou's poetry and how she described women in her poetry.

B. Research Question

Based on the background above, the researcher formulated a research question as below:

"How is the portrayal of feminism reflected in Maya Angelou's selected poetries?"

C. Objective of the Research

Based on the research question above, the objective of this research was to know the portrayal of feminism reflected Maya Angelou's selected poetries.

D. Significances of the Research

In doing research, the researcher really hopes that it can give advantage. This research has benefit for other authors and English student. In this research, the significances of the research divided into two, they are :

1. Theoretically this research can provide additional knowledge and information about how the of feminism thinking portrayed in Maya Angelou's poetries.
2. Practically, this research is expected to be used as a reference for further research, and this research can help readers in responding to the of feminism portrayed in poetries.

E. Scope of the research

In this research, the researcher would only focus on the conflict of feminism in Maya Angelou's poetries. As we know, the existence of an injustice in Maya Angelou's poetries has many types, namely social influence, economic influence, cultural influence, etc. so the scope of this research is only about the influence of feminism and figurative language using literary criticism.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, the searcher presents the theory related to research in order to support the analysis. It consists of explanation about previous findings, theoretical framework and Maya Angelou.

A. Previous Findings

The writer presents some previous findings, which is related to this research, as follow:

Wagola (2014) in her thesis *entitled “The woman position in Sherry Wood’s Novel” a Chesapeake Shores Christmas* “. She used feminism approach in doing the research. The result of this research shows that woman success to move on from authority to be a free individual receive her back again to live together as a family. The woman position as wife is portrayed as the second by her husband. She experiences an authority from the man in domestic and public. In addition, her position as mother has refusal when she want to go back to family by her children because of divorce. To overcome that problem, the women demanded her right and position to be an individual woman and also to make the position balance as an ideal spouse in household. She also tries to solve her problem, face to face, and heart to heart. As the result, the women successes to move on from authority to be a free individual in choosing and deciding her

own willing and aspiration and also her children can receive her back again to life together as a family.

Damayanti (2011) in her thesis entitled “Gender Equality in Harold Pinter’s *Betrayal*”. She uses the genetic structuralism approach and examining the characters in which she showed the existence of gender equality and compare to its history. In this analysis the writer explains three aspect; structural work of literature, author’s background and social reality. Through this study, the research found that gender equality shows through the character Retral Play indicates the equality between men and women in terms of expression and self-development in their career.

Fibrianto (2016) in his research entitled “*Gender Equality within the scope of Sebelas Maret University student organization*”, aims to find out about the realization of gender equality within the scop of Sebelas Maret University student Organizations. The result shows that from all organizations there is male domination as a leader of the organization, while woman serve as secretaries, treasurer and member. The reality is that there is no gender equivalence and justice, and gender mainstreaming from every organization, so position of woman is still at number two after men.

According to those researches above, they are all had the same research problem which was the marginalized subject or the other that focused on the social or political class. This research differ from previous researches which brought up from. The poetry of Maya Angelou, namely Still I Rise, Phenomenal

Woman and Equality, uses the theory of Feminism, which means that the meaning of poetry tells about equality and the rights of every human being.

1. Poetry by Maya Angelou

1.1 Still I Rise

You may write me down in history

With your bitter, twisted lies

You may trod me in the very dirt

But still, like, dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?

Why are you beset with gloom?

'cause I walk I've got oil wells

Pumping in my living room

Just like moons and like suns,

With the certainty of tides.

Just like hopes springing high

Still I Rise

Did you want to see me broken?

Bowed head and lowered eyes?

Shoulders falling down like teardrops,

Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you

Don't you take it awful hard

'cause I haugh like I've got gold mines

Digging in my own backyard

You may shoot me with your words,

You may cut me with your eyes,

You may kill me with your hatefulness,

But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you ?

Does it come as a surprise

That I dance like I've got diamonds

At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame

I rise

Up from a past that's rooted in pain

I rise

I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,

Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise.

Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave
I am the dream and the hope of the slave
I rise
I rise
I rise

1.2 Phenomenal woman

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size
But when I start to tell them,
They think I'm telling lies.
I say,
It's in the reach of my arms,
The span of my hips
The stride of my step
The curl of my lips
I'm a woman

Phenomenally
Phenomenally woman,
That's me.

I walk into a room
Just as cool as you please,
And to a man
The fellows stand or
Fall down on their knees
Then they swarm around me,
I say, It's the fire in my eyes,
And the flash of my teeth
The swing in my waist,
And the joy in my feet,
I'm a woman
Phenomenally

The watermark is a large, light green logo of Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar. It features a stylized green archway with a yellow star in the center containing the year '1965'. Below the archway, the text 'UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI' is written in small green letters, followed by 'ALAUDDIN' in large, bold green letters, and 'MAKASSAR' in smaller green letters at the bottom.

Phenomenally woman,
That's me.
Men themselves have wondered
What they see in me
They try so much

But they can't touch
My inner mystery,
When I try to show them
They say they still can't see I say,
It's in the arch of my back
The sun of my smile,
The ride of my style
I'm a woman
Phenomenally,
Phenomenal woman
That's me
Now you understand
Just why my head's not bowed
I don't shout or jump about or have to talk real loud
When you see me passing it ought to make you proud
I say
It's in the click of my heels
The bend of my hair
The palm of my hand
The need for my care
'cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally,

Phenomenal woman,

That's me

1.3 Equality

You declare you see me dimly

Through glass which will not shine

Though I stand before you boldly,

Trim in rank and making time

You do own to hear me faintly

As a whisper out of range

While my drums beat out the message

And the rhythms never change

Equality, and I will be free

Equality, and I will be free

You announce my ways are wanton,

That I fly man to man,

But it I'm just a shadow to you

Could you ever understand?

We have lived a painful history,

We know the shameful past

But I keep on marching forward

And you keep on coming last

Equality, and I will be free

Equality, and I will be free

Take the blinders from your vision,

Take the padding from your ears

And confess you've heard me crying

And admit you've seen my tears

Hear the tempo so compelling

Hear the blood throb through my veins

Yes, my drums are beating nightly

And the rhythms never change

Equality, and I will be free

Equality, and I will be free.

B. Theoretical Framework

1. Feminist Racism

1.1 Feminism in General

The study of gender and language emerge from feminist thought the Oxford English dictionary defines feminism as “the belief and aim women should have the same rights and opportunities as men; the struggle to achieve this aim. Today’s feminism as a diverse phenomenon with a long and painful history with a starting point that may be impossible to locate. According to Allyson, Feminist believe is important to understand and study gender as a system of cultural signs, often assigned to two distinct body forms: male and female. For feminist is a critical that we demystify and subvert the power based relationships attached to gender so that both women and men might live more freely.

Feminism is struggle to and sexist oppression. Its aim is not to benefit solely and specific group of women. It does not privilege women over men. It has the power to transform in a meaningful way all women lives. According to bell, feminism is neither a lifestyle nor a ready-made identity or role one can step into. Diverting energy from feminist movement that aims to change society, many women concentrate on the development of a counter culture, a woman centred world wherein participants have little contact with men. Such attempts do not indicate a

respect or concern for the vast majority of women who are unable to integrate their cultural expressions with the vision offered by alternative woman centred communities.

1.2 Feminist Racism

Robert Blauner describes racism as a tendency for people who have categorized different cultures in terms of their physical features, such as skin color, hair color, facial texture, and eye shape. Taylor's Dalmas offers a related approach that focuses on the behavioral components of racism. Taylor defines racism as the cumulative effect of individuals, institutions, and culture that results in the oppression of ethnic minorities. Taylor's approach is useful in that he recognizes that racism can occur at three different levels: individual, institutional, and cultural (Lustig and Koester, 2003: 157-158).

In one sense it seems a truth that we should talk about representations and stereotypes at the same time. Even though there are many negative stereotypes that become the faces of unacceptable representations, these stereotypes are indeed faces and not bodies and the substance of the misrepresentations. The media can peddle ideas of black men as drug dealers or pimps, and black women as prostitutes. This forms the stereotype as a simplistic and reductionist description that sets the standard for what is normal. And it is also possible to identify categorization by recognizable race

15 (recognizable), but not explicitly stereotypical. It is more of a way of shaping views about the quality of differences related to race (Burton, 1999: 143-144).

Neubeck explains that there are two types of racism. The first type is Personal Racism (individual or small group) which expresses negative feelings with words and / or actions towards black people. The second type is Institutional Racism, where institutions carry out routine large-scale operations such as business and political work systems to harm minority groups in general.

1. Personal Racism

Personal Racism occurs when individuals (or small groups individuals) have a suspicious attitude and / or engage in behaviour discriminatory and the like. The manifestation of Personal Racism is stereotyping individuals on the basis of alleged racial differences, insulting names and references, discriminatory treatment during interpersonal contact, threats, and acts of violence against members of minority groups who are suspected of being racially inferior. The following is an example of Personal Racism in action :

- a. An officer hires blacks only to low-level jobs, based on stereotypes about ability 16 or fear that blacks will bring a negative reaction from white workers,

- b. A teacher assumes that the children in the class are not member of the white majority couldn't learn and because of that they are given little attention,
- c. The driver of the car stopped at a red light, saw a young man black people approached the crossing, drivers hurried over lock that car door thinking that maybe the youth black skin is dangerous.

On the other hand, Personal Racism can also be a real action of racial hatred. These often get media attention, especially when the actions are life-threatening or carry violent implications. In recent years "hate crimes" or "bias crimes" against black people (as well as against Jews, gay men, and lesbians, etc.) have resulted in serious injury and death, inspiring several countries to issue crime law racism for the prevention of acts of racism.

2 Institutional Racism

Institutional racism involves being given special treatment for minority communities in the hands of these institutions. Institutional Racism draws attention to the fact that groups such as 17 Native Americans, African-Americans, Latino-Americans, and Asian-Americans often find themselves falling victim to the routine workings of these organizational structures. Unlike some forms of personal racism, racism that occurs through the day-to-day and year-to-year

operations of large-scale institutions is often difficult to detect without investigation.

Institutional Racism is a social phenomenon where it is white be in a position to move and defend. The key is power over their organizational structures and operations. Since people of dark color generally do not have access to positions of power in the main institutions that affect them, they are unable to discriminate against whites at this level. One could speak, for example, of the incident "black racism" on a personal level. But it must be remembered that minorities never had, and do not today have, the means of acting racism in the same institutions and with the same effect as whites (Neubeck, 1997: 269-277).

Much of the theory of racism is focused on individual prejudice and discrimination not on organizations or society. Racism itself refers to attitudes, beliefs, or behavior of individuals that result in unfair treatment or opportunities for minorities. In contrast, institutional racism focuses on policies and practices that have unequal consequences for minorities, regardless of whether these policies are accompanied by racist organizational beliefs. With the rise of the civil rights movement, it is no longer socially acceptable in many situations to speak openly in a prejudiced manner or act of overt discrimination. In its place emerged a new kind of individual racism and racist theories. The new racism, instead of classifying social problems in terms of biological inferiority, shifts the explanation to one of cultural inferiority. The effects of this cultural determinism are the same

(Briggs, in press). Minority group members are still blamed for their condition, while white social institutions maintain that whites have special privileges (Mattaini, 1996: 149).

2. Some fundamental Elements of Poetry

1.1 Figurative language

Language can be classified as either literal or figurative. When we speak literally, we mean exactly what each word conveys; when we use figurative language we mean something other than the actual meaning of the words. In here the writer just writes the figurative language that writer had used.

1.1.1 Simile

Simile is specific comparison by means of the words “like” or “as” between two kinds of ideas or objects. Like a metaphor, simile also compares two different things. But it uses a connective word. Simile is a figure of speech in which an explicit comparison is made between two things essentially unlike. The comparison is made. Explicit by the uses of some words or phrases as “like, as, than, similar to, resembles, or seems “.

1.1.2 Metaphor

Metaphor is a statement that one thing is something else, which, in a literal sense, it is not. Metaphor is a phrase used in an imaginative to describe something in order to say that between the two things has the same qualities and its function to the descriptions more powerful without using sign posting, for example the poetry of Robert Francis entitled *The Hound*. In this poetry Francis comparing between life with hound. The first line in the first stanza says, Life the hound, and then he used the word hound continually replacing the word life. But essentially the poetry means life a like the hound that is unpredictable.

1.1.3 Understatement

Understatement, or saying less than one means, may exist in what one says or merely in how one says it. If, for instance, upon sitting down to a loaded dinner palate, you say, “This looks like a nice snack”

1.1.4 Hyperbole or overstatement

Hyperbole is a figure of speech that is in intentional exaggeration for emphasis or humorous effect. It may be for humorous effect, fanciful, convincing or unconvincing. When someone says, “if the river is dry. I’m able to fill it with tears” or

says. “I will eat you if you don’t go right away” he is adding emphasis to what he really means. He does not mean that he is capable to fill the dry river with his tear but he means that his tear flows rapidly because some reasons or he does not really mean that he wants to eat his partner but he really wants his partner go away hurry.

2. Maya Angelou as Feminist poetry

For black, Asian and women of color the feminist issue is also a race issue Black Feminist alert us to the ethnocentricity which informs feminist work which depicts black women as victims but not as wise women. Racism haunts sexism and their interrelation should not be ignored. But is all too easy to argue, as do white feminist, that reproductive controls, and the family and legal inequalities are major features of patriarchy. Black feminism has a different relationship to dominating social policies than does white feminism. Race, cannot be added to other aspects of social institutions as an additional variable, for black feminism argue that race, class and gender interlocking system of oppression not additive system. From this perspective there are continuities between Asian and black British and black American writing and writing by women of colour. The core themes black and other feminism, both in American and in British are: a shared history of struggle, the gaining of theory from every day actions and experience, and the sense that community is not a fragile concept but source of care and emotional strength.

Reproducing the view of ordinary black women is s essential ingredient of black feminist theory.

A definitions of Black feminist thought is needed that avoids the materialist position that being black and/or female generates certain experiences that automatically determine variants of black and/or feminist consciousness. Claims, that black feminist thought is the exclusive province of African-American women, regardless of the experiences and worldview of such women typify this position. But a definition of black feminist thought must also avoid the idealist position that ideas can be evaluated in isolation from the groups that create them. Definitions claiming that anyone can produce and develop black feminist thought risk obscuring the special angle of vision that black women bring to the knowledge production process.

Maya Angelou was born Marguerite Ann Johnson on April 4, 1928, in St. Louis, Missouri. His father Bailey Johnson is a porter and Naval Nutritionist. Her Mother Vivian Baxter Johnson is a nurse. Angelou received her nickname from her older sister Bailey, who couldn't pronounce her name so she called her Maya, which she comes from "my sister". Angelou's parents divorced when he was 3. He and his sister were sent to live with their grandmother Anne Henderson in stamps, Arkansas. Within four years, Angelou and her brother were brought to live with their mother in St. Louis. While living there, Angelou was raped before she turned 8 by her mother's boyfriend. After he told his brother, the man was arrested and, after his

release, killed, possibly by Angelou so that he could learn African dance with pearl Primus. He also took modern dance classes. He returned to California and teamed up with dancer and choreographer Alvin Ailey to appear on African American fraternities as “Al and Rita” throughout San Francisco.

In 1954, Angelou’s marriage ended but she continued to dance. While performing at Onion purple San Francisco, Angelou decided to use the name “Maya Angelou” because it was distinctive. She combines the nickname her sister has given her with the new last name she derives from her husband’s name. In 1959, Angelou became acquainted with the novelist James O. Killens, who encouraged him to hone his skills as a writer.

Angelou became romantically involved with south African activist Vusumzi make and moved to Cairo, where he worked as an associate editor for Arab Observer. In 1962, Angelou moved to Accra, Ghana, where he worked at the University of Ghana and continues to hone his skills as a writer, working as a feature editor for the African Reviews, a freelancer for Ghana times and radio personality for Ghanaian radio.

Maya Angelou has suffered from health problems for years and suffered from heart problems when she died on May 28, 2014. She was found by guards at her home in Winston-Salem, where she taught for several years at Wake Forest university . He is 86. Maya Angelou is a Pioneer in achieving success in Various fields as an African American women. Respondents to his

immediate death indicated the extent of his influence. They include singer Mary J. Blige, US Senator Cory Booker, and President Barack Obama.

In addition to the national Medal of Arts presented by President Clinton and the Presidential Medal of Freedom presented by Obama, he was awarded the literature award. An honorary National Book award for contributions to the literary community. Prior to his death, Angelou had been awarded more than 50 honorary titles.



CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH

The chapter consists of four points. They are Research Method, the object of research, Research Instruments, and Data Analysis Technique.

A. Research Method

In analysing the author's poetry using qualitative research, there are also two data sources that can be found in this study, namely as follows: primary data sources and secondary data sources. Primary data is an analysis of feminist thinking using figurative language. Secondary data sources are books, journals, articles, and the internet to complement the data analysis. This study also uses a feminism approach, which is to see how of feminist thinking and related to woman appeared in Maya Angelou's poetries.

B. The object of Research

The researcher conducted the two objects of this research as follows, formal objects and material objects discussing the influence of feminism in Maya Angelou's poetry using Feminism theory. The material object is the poetry of Maya Angelo.

C. Instrument of Research

The research instrument by the writer was reading poetries and the researcher took notes to identify and classify important verses related to the of feminism. The purpose of this study is to facilitate and understand other researchers who want to analyse the same research and as additional references.

D. Data Analysis Technique

Researchers analysed the data to answer the formulated problems. This analysis is supported by Feminism theory. This theory is used to analyse the influence of feminism in Maya Angelou's poetry. After that the researchers made conclusions from the study.

In the data collection procedure, the study used the following five steps:

1. Researchers read the poetries of Maya Angelou's work as a whole, Starting to the end repeatedly.
2. After that the researcher gave that code on the verses that emphasize of the feminism that occurred in the poetries.
3. The researcher analysed the data in accordance with the formulation Of the problem.
4. Then the researcher classified the data.

5. The last, the researcher would conclude the results the analysis.



CHAPTER IV

FINDING AND DISSCUSSION

This chapter consist of two sections. The finding of the research and discussion of the research finding. The findings are presented as data a description and the discussion reveals some argument and further interpretation.

A. FINDINGS

This section contains data analysis of the poetry "*still I rise, Phenomenal women and Equality*". The purpose of data analysis is to answer the research presented in the first chapter, specifically to determine gender equality and ideology presented by the poetry and investigate how gender equality and ideology is theses were analysed using the theory of feminism.

1. The Portrayal of Feminism Reflected In Maya Maya Angelou's Selected Poetry

The reflection of the idea of black feminism in the three poetries by Maya Angelou focuses on the messages that appear in these poetries through the use of figurative language and imagery. In this chapter, the author discusses how the image of black women in American is reflected in Maya Angelou's poetry and what messages Maya Angelou presents as an African-American woman fighting against discrimination.

a. Bullying and Negative Image of Black Women in American

Slavery that occurs in American can be categorized as racism that is triggered by economic factors. The history of slavery, as a black chapter of American history. Reminiscent of how African ethnicities in the 1960s experienced large-scale abductions and arrests then sent to a new continent to be made slaves forever. The slavery of African- Americans was institutionalized in the southern region of the United States to support an agricultural economic system that required a lot of cheap or free labor. There were four kinds of negative images attached to slave girls African-American, among others: (1) Mammy, (2) breeder woman and (3) welfare mother and (4) jezebel (Collins, 2000:71-81).

b. Maya Angelou's Feminism thought in her poetries

African-American black feminism want to show that within them there is a power to initiate change even though they are perceived by issues of race, gender and differences in social status. The various pressures in society make them African-American women aware and aware of their own condition. They began to voice their thoughts against the people who oppressed them. This is reflected in the selected poetry by Maya Angelou, namely "*still I rise, phenomenal women and Equality*".

c. Poetry "Still I Rise"

After analysing the types of figurative language and imagery contained in Maya Angelou's poetry "Still I Rise", the writer found a

bold and confident depiction of African-American women reflected in the poetry. In addition, we also found negative *jezebel* images that were pinned by white Americans to African-American women in verses 2, 5 and 7 of the words “sassiness”, “haughtiness”, and “sexiness”. However, they are still up and confident even though they carry this negative image.

In this poetry, Angelou uses the word “I” to represent herself as a black African-American woman, where Angelou pointed out that they never gave in to the mistreatment of the white community.

Through hyperbole figurative language, similes, tasting images, and motion images in the first stanza, black feminism ideas are found that are brave even though they are crushed or treated badly by the majority of white Americans. Even if they are despised or even hated they are not will give up and stay positive. Angelou emphasized that nothing and no one can oppress and discourage African-American women.

This poetry shows the thought of black feminism very clearly influenced Maya Angelou’s writing style. After analysing the figurative language and imagery in the poetry “Still I Rise”, it is found that a woman who is independent, confident, and has the courage to speak out loud is really contained in this poetry.

d. Poetry “Phenomenal Women”

After analyzing the figurative language and imagery contained in the poetry “Phenomenal women”, we found several positive images of African-American women that Angelou portrayed in the poetry. She described them as strong and self-confident. The application of beauty standards in society makes black African American women feel miserable and humiliated.

Through hyperbole figurative language, visual images, and motion images, Angelou explained that even though the appearance of African American women is not as perfect as other women who are considered ideal, they remain confident and do not feel inferior to their bodies. This is reflection of the thought of black feminism that shows self-confidence though for centuries people had regarded African-American women only as property and even animals that served as slaves and could produce new slaves. In this poetry, a negative image of breeder woman was also found that was pinned by white Americans to African-American women.

African-American women began to assess that aspects her woman hood has been stereotyped, scomed and slandered in the realm of science and popular media. Emphasis on self-respect is what then illustrates the meaning of self-worth such as reflected in

the poetry “Phenomenal women”. So far, African-American women are not respected in this social environment because of their skin colour and differences social class, and then they start to get up on their feet alone.

e. Poetry “Equality”

Through figurative language and imagery, Angelou tells a picture of the thoughts of a African-American woman in this poetry. He tells of the lives of the black minority in American who live under siege by the white majority. Angelou displays the frustration of black Americans who are oppressed in a society that seems too close their eyes and doesn't care.

The figurative language and imagery contained in the poetry “Equality” characterizes the African-American image in a positive light, encouraging them to embrace others that black is beautiful, black is strong. African-Americans deserve pride when they talk about their culture. That their life is worth celebrating. Although the distance between the minority and majority is still evident today in our rigid and intolerant society. However, Maya Angelou firmly and courageously continues to voice “Equality, and I will be free”.

B.DISSCUSSION

In the poetry *Still I rise*, *Phenomenal woman* and *Equality* by Maya Angelou. Discusses how black in African Americans, intended to express the spirit of persistence in fighting for their life as an oppressed people described by the poet, Maya Angelou, with her poetry *Still I rise*. In addition, it is also intended to see the influence of their life experiences and how persistence they are in going through it. Revealed that the experiences of Maya life as a across race from Africa-America who have successfully overcome many conflict in their lives make their souls more persistent and have high enthusiasm to face problems in their lives. In this case it is primarily about the struggle to survive against oppression.

She brings this understanding of the dilemmas and dangers and joys of black women to the fore than almost any previous autobiographer, "said Arnold Rampersad, a literary critic and professor of English at Stanford University. According to Arnold Rampersad, Maya Angelou challenges the assumption of a black girl. Poor from the south Maya Angelou is knowing for being brave and honest. Beautiful women wonder where my secret lies. I am not cute or made to a fashion model. Reads the poetry. In the poetry which is a lasting message for all omen. Maya Angelou also said that radiate your own beauty. Do not see your own beauty by the standards of others, and always be confident.

In the poetry Equality about women who are strong and brave in fighting for freedom for themselves and their groups. They want to be equal and receive their rights as human beings and must be freed from the shackles of discrimination that they have experienced for centuries.

Maya Angelou is one of the black writer who could support herself by her writing. She is praised for her ability to say what important was to millions of black people especailly black woman. She is famous for her description of Black people life. She uses her works to praise voice concern about race and woman. She often writes poems and books about racial issues and feminism perspective. the reseacher concludes that the dominant type of feminsm in related to the bad history of black people. Second, the reasons of using feminism perspective

by the poet is the image of her bad life experiences. The last result is the image of black.

The results of the analysis show that in the "still i rise" there is a conflict between black women and white people (both men and women) and black men. Black women suffer because of bad treatment from people. white men who regard them as slaves, and because black men look down on them, because black women want to do everything they can to rise from the oppression of white men and black men on the inside. " phenomenal woman "there is a conflict between black women and white women (between ugly and beautiful). When viewed from the point of view of black feminism and a review of black feminism in the United States" Still i rise "depicts black women. rise up against slavery and

racism and "Phenomenal woman" portrays self-confident, black women. They try to destroy the standard of beauty (which judges that beauty only belongs to white women. in society.



CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter provides conclusions and suggestions. After knowing how the author presents the influence of feminist thoughts and gender equality, the author proposes several conclusions and suggestions to the readers:

A. Conclusion

After analyzing the thoughts of Maya Angelou's feminism as contained in the poetry of *Still I Rise*, *Phenomenal Women*, and *Equality*, it can be concluded that the three poetry contain the ideas of black feminism through figurative language and images as follows:

Through messages that emerge from figurative language and images, it is also found that black feminism is reflected in the three poetry by Maya Angelou. In the poetry "*Still I Rise*", there are thoughts of black feminism that depict African-American women who are brave and want to rise above the discrimination of the majority of white Americans. They want to show that are amazing, strong, and cannot be underestimated. In the poetry "*Phenomenal Women*", there is also a black feminism thought that sends a message about African-American women who confident and try to break the standards of beauty and society. In the poetry "*Equality*," there is a message about women who are strong and brave in fighting for freedom for themselves and their groups. They

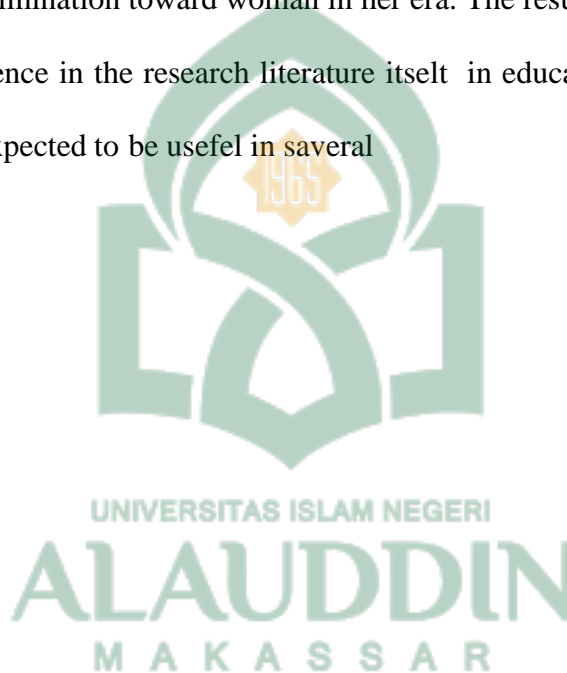
want to equal and receive their rights as human beings and must be free from the shackles of discrimination they have experienced during this time centuries.

According to those researches , they are all had the same research problem which was the marginalized subject or the other that focused on the social or political class. This research differ from previous researches which brought up from. The poetry of Maya Angelou, namely Still I Rise, Phenomenal Woman and Equality, uses the theory of Feminism, which means that the meaning of poetry tells about equality and the rights of every human being.

B. Suggestion

The writer feels certain that every poetry in Maya Angelou that she had analyzed contain feminism. The writer uses feminist literary criticism as approach to analyzed third poetry of Maya Angelou. The approach helps the writer to understand the position of a women. It is helpful to find the meaning of a symbol and two know what a poet says in the poetry is. She analyzes them as good as possible to make this research perfect. Therefore, the reader who wants to know and learn further about feminist literary criticism tries to find very information of feminist literary criticism in library, websites and articles in journal. The writer believes that those are the sources that can be used as main or supporting references.

The researcher concludes that the dominant type of feminism in Maya Angelou's poem is Radical Feminism because discrimination toward black women are related to the bad history of black people. Second, the reasons of using feminism perspective by the poet is the image of her bad life experiences. The last result is the image of black woman in Maya Angelou's poems which shows the discrimination toward woman in her era. The result of the study can be used as a reference in the research literature itself in educational institution and so on. It also expected to be useful in several



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AUTOBIOGRAPHY



Wirda Sari was born on June 15th 1998 in Bone, Southeast Sulawesi. As the three child of Muh.Sarjan and Dra.Wahidah. She started her study in Aisyiyah Bustanul Athfai Buareng, registered in 2003 and graduated in 2004. She then continue her study in elementary school in Bone called SD Inpres 6/75 Buareng and finished it in 2010. She junior high school called SMP Negeri 1 Kajuara. She senior high school SMA Negeri 1 Kajuara. After finishing her study at school, she enrolled at Alauddin State Islamic University of Makassar in 2016 as a student of English and Literature Department.



